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(54) **ROLL CONTROL DEVICE FOR A VEHICLE CURTAIN**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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See application file for complete search history.

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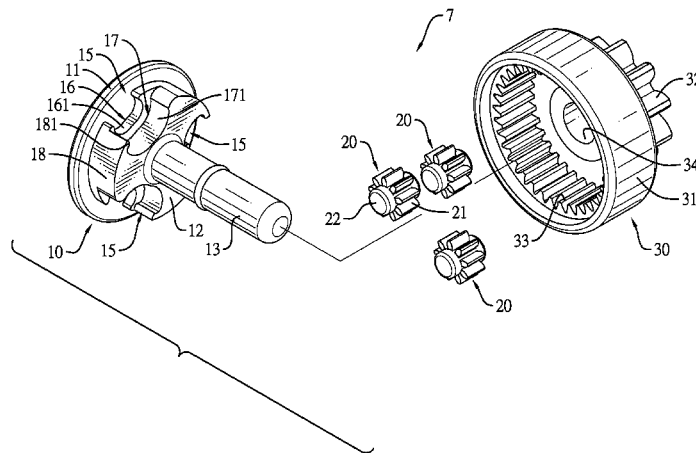
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A roll control device for a vehicle curtain has a unidirectional transmission device and a damping assembly. The unidirectional transmission device has a gear base, multiple planet gears and a transmission wheel. The gear base has a connecting segment, a driving segment formed on a side of the connecting segment and an axle. The driving segment has multiple receiving recesses and multiple limiting segments. The planet gears are mounted rotatably and slidably in the receiving recesses respectively and are selectively limited by the limiting segments respectively to rotate with the gear base. The transmission wheel is rotatably combined with the gear base, encloses the planet gears and has a transmission gear. The damping assembly is connected with the unidirectional transmission device and has a driven gear and a damper. The driven gear engages the transmission gear on the transmission wheel. The damper is connected with the driven gear.

11 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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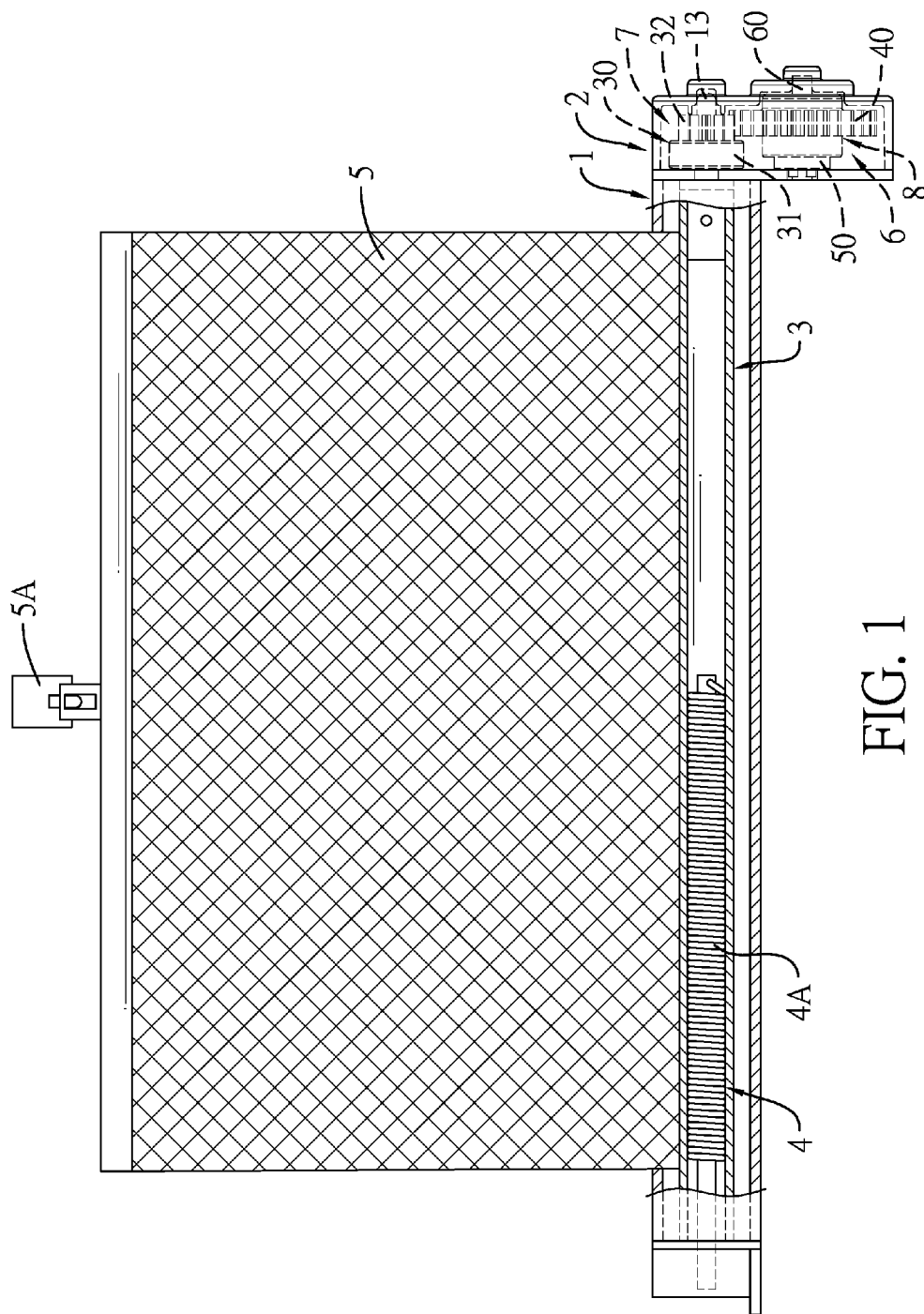
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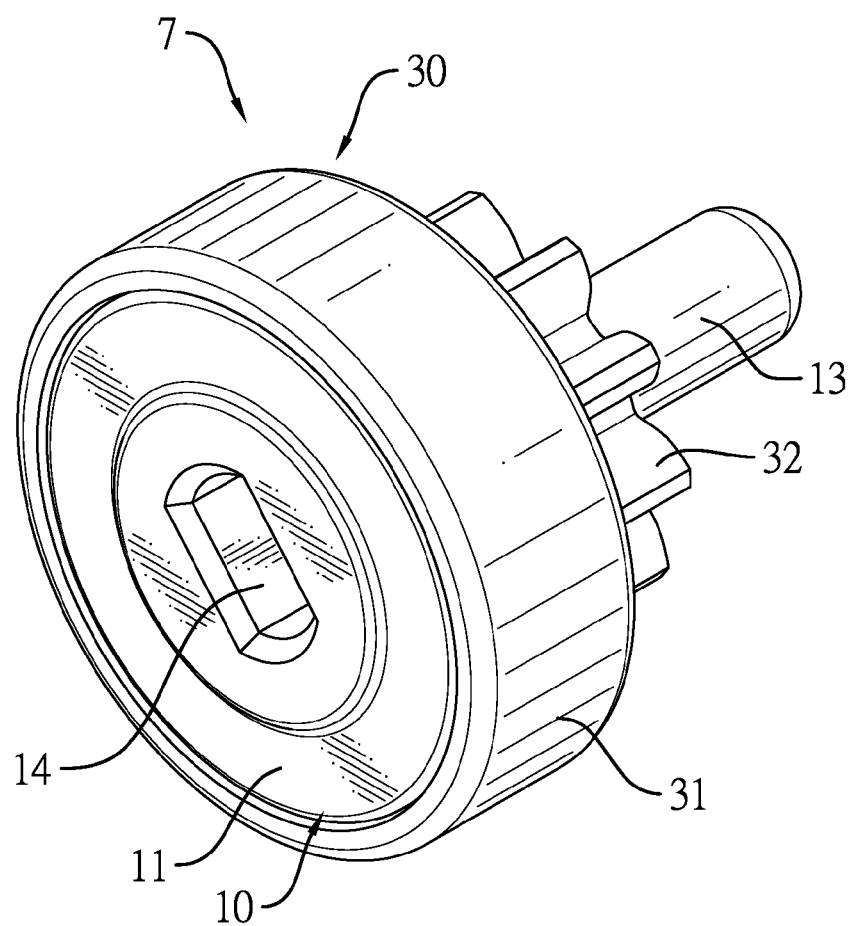
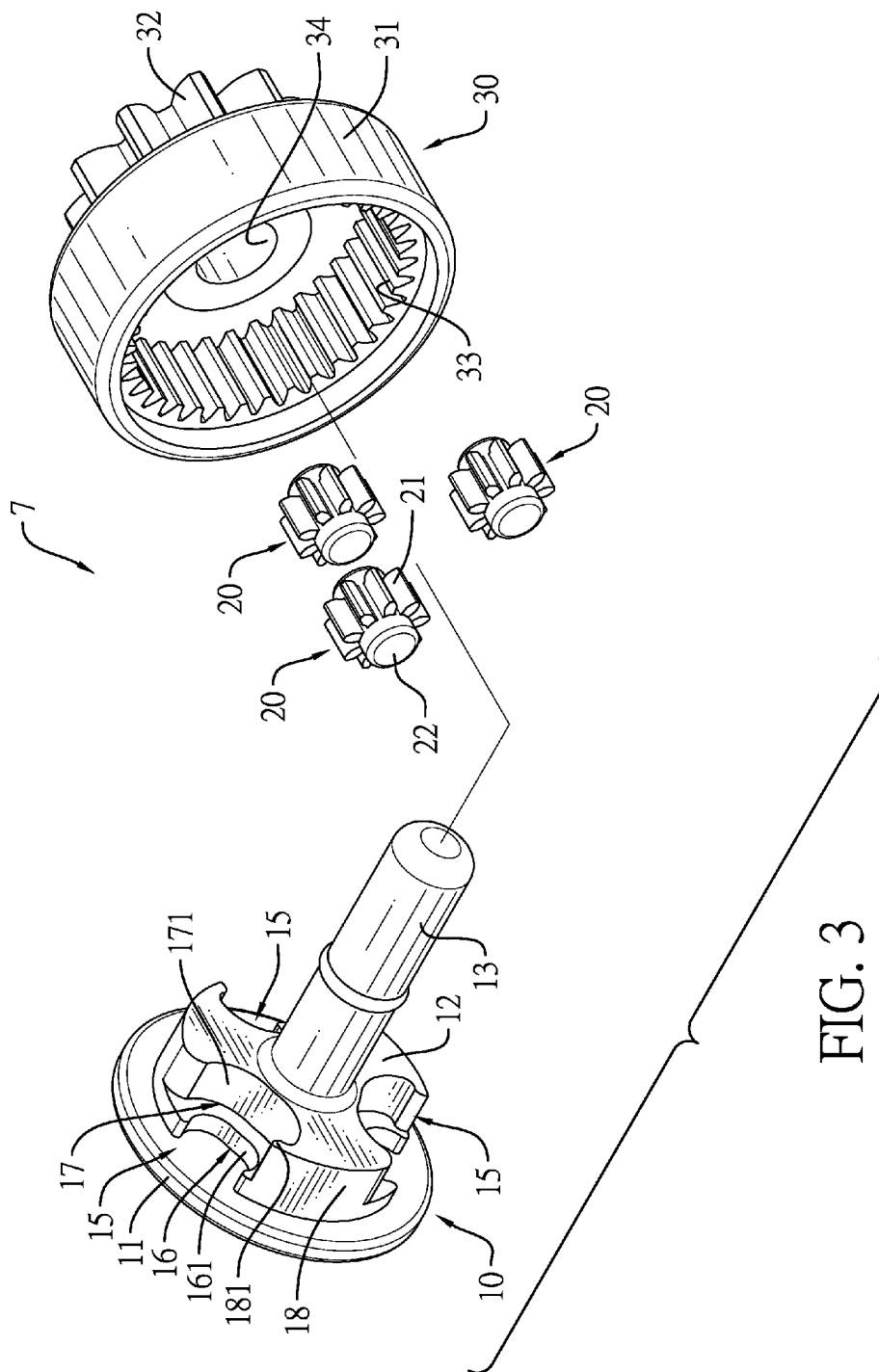


FIG. 2



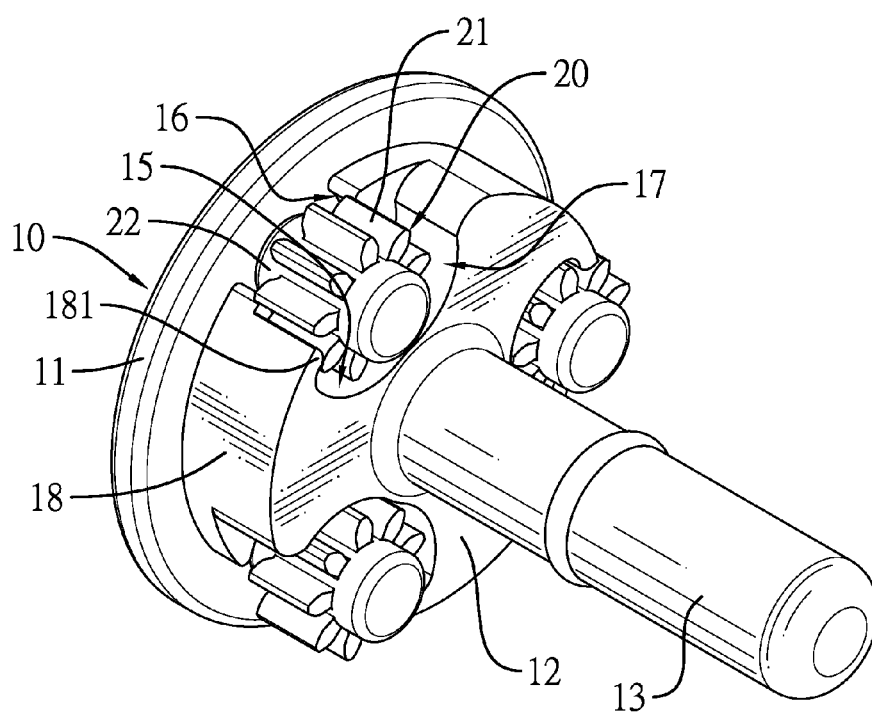


FIG. 4

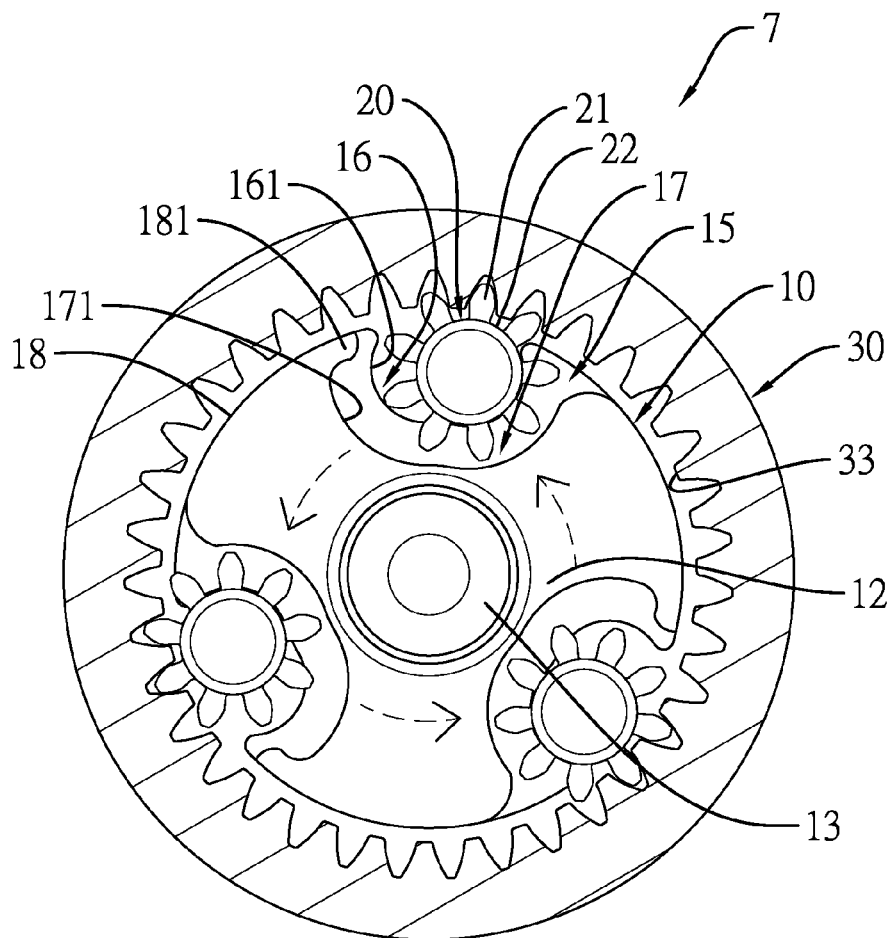
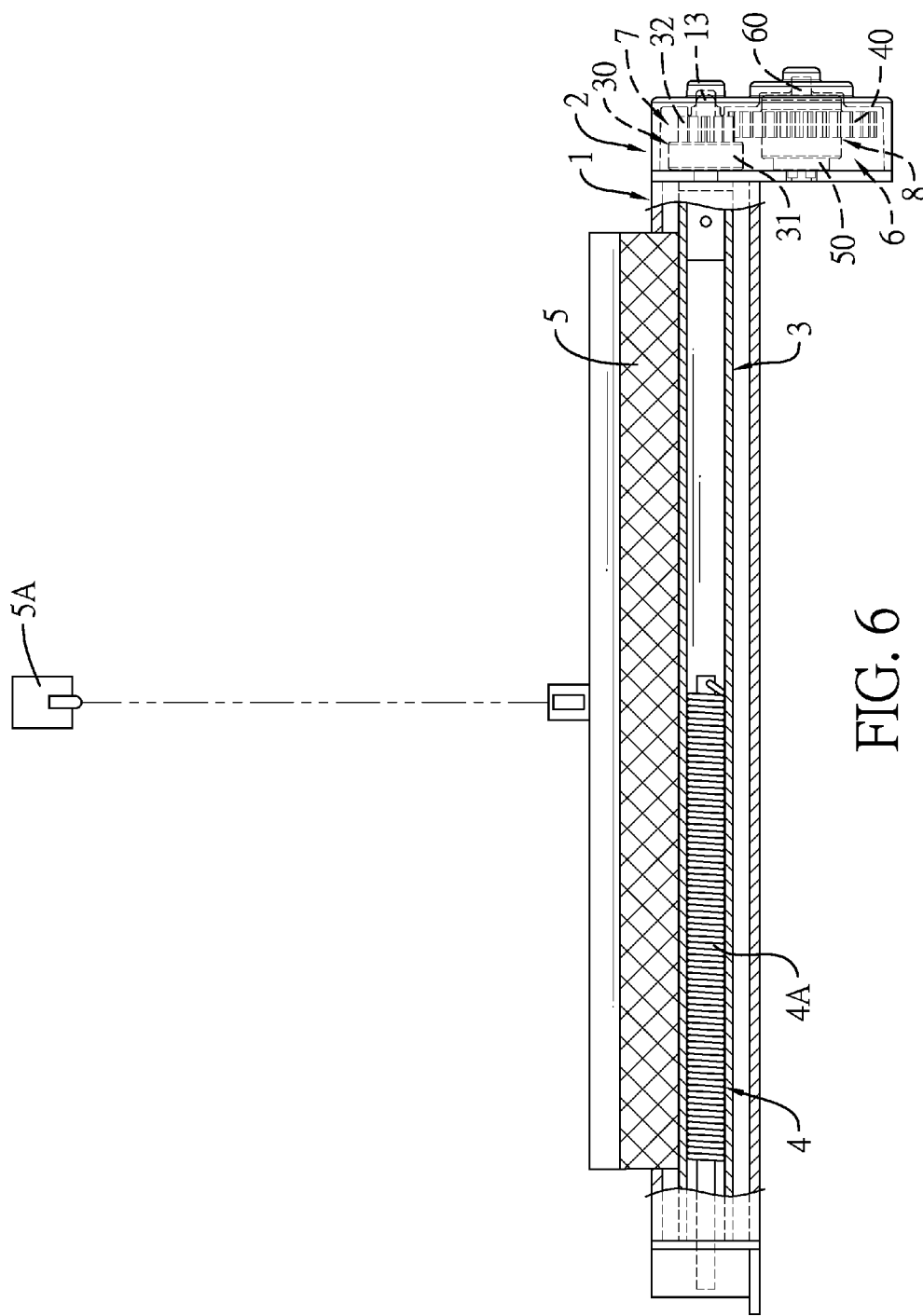


FIG. 5



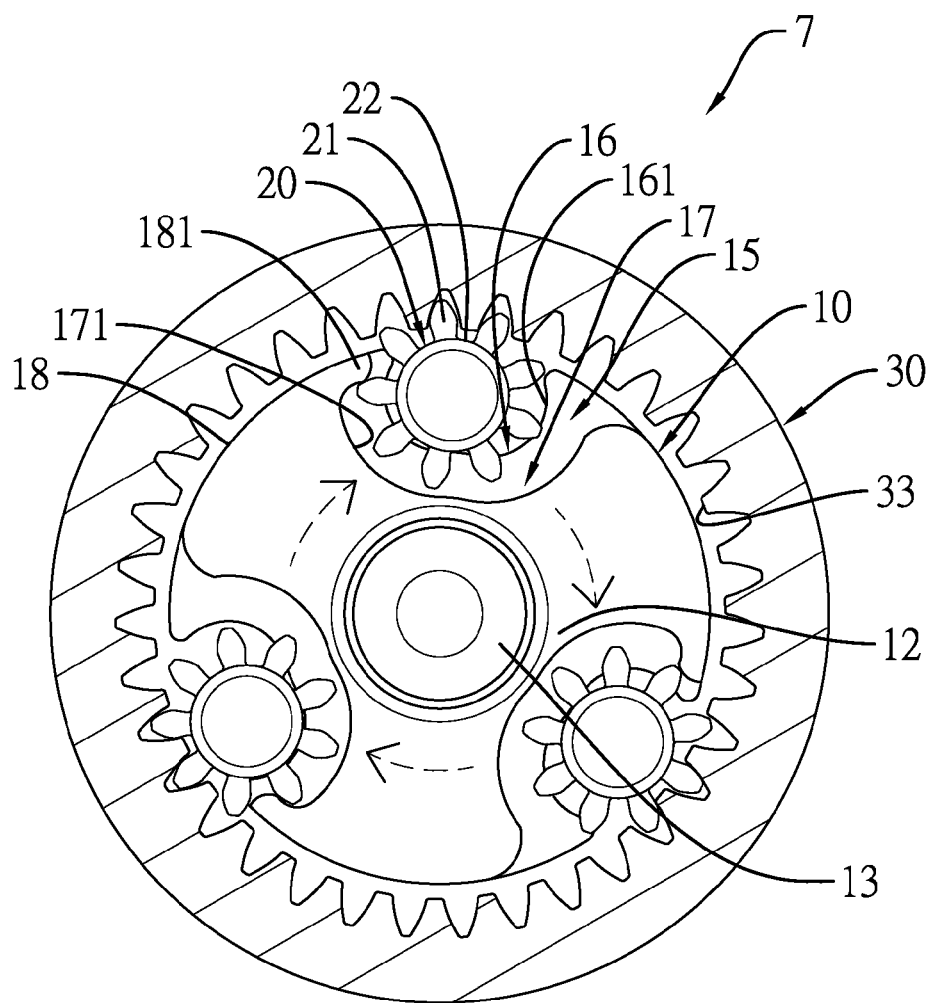


FIG. 7

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ROLL CONTROL DEVICE FOR A VEHICLE CURTAIN

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a vehicle curtain, especially to a roll control device of a vehicle curtain.

2. Description of the Prior Art(s)

A conventional vehicle curtain comprises a hollow receiving housing, a curtain rod rotatably mounted in the receiving housing, a curtain fabric connected to the curtain rod, and a rolling device connected to an end of the curtain rod and having a torsion spring.

When the curtain fabric is drawn out of the receiving housing and expanded, the torsion spring of the rolling device is twisted and stores elastic potential energy. When the curtain fabric is retracting, the elastic potential energy of the torsion spring drives the curtain rod to roll backward to wrap the curtain fabric around the curtain rod. However, during retracting of the curtain fabric, once the curtain fabric is released and the curtain rod rolls freely to wrap the curtain fabric, the elastic potential energy is so large that the curtain rod vibrates excessively and causes noise.

To overcome the shortcomings, the present invention provides a roll control device of a vehicle curtain to mitigate or obviate the aforementioned problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The main objective of the present invention is to provide a roll control device for a vehicle curtain.

The roll control device has a unidirectional transmission device and a damping assembly. The unidirectional transmission device has a gear base, multiple planet gears and a transmission wheel. The gear base has a connecting segment, a driving segment formed on a side of the connecting segment and an axle. The driving segment has multiple receiving recesses and multiple limiting segments. The receiving recesses are formed in a periphery of the driving segment and arranged around a center of the gear base at even intervals. The limiting segments are defined respectively between the receiving recesses, and each limiting segment has a curved flange formed on an end of the limiting segment and being adjacent to a corresponding one of the receiving recesses. The axle is formed on and protrudes from the driving segment at a side opposite to the connecting segment. The planet gears are mounted rotatably and slidably in the receiving recesses respectively and are selectively limited by the curved flanges respectively to rotate with the gear base. Each planet gear has toothed segment and a gear axle. The transmission wheel is rotatably combined with the gear base, encloses the planet gears and has a wheel base, a transmission gear and a through hole. The wheel base has a toothed recess defined in a side of the wheel base and having a toothed inner surface selectively engaging the planet gears. The transmission gear is formed on the wheel base at a side opposite to the toothed recess. The through hole is defined through a center of the transmission gear and communicates with the toothed recess, and the axle of the gear base extends rotatably through the toothed recess and the through hole. The damping assembly is connected with the unidirectional transmission device and has a driven gear and a damper. The driven gear engages the transmission gear on the transmission wheel. The damper is connected with the driven gear.

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Other objectives, advantages and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side view in partial section of a roll control device in accordance with the present invention mounted on a vehicle curtain;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of a unidirectional transmission device of the roll control device in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of the unidirectional transmission device in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a gear base and planet gears of the unidirectional transmission device in FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 is an operational side view in partial section of the unidirectional transmission device in FIG. 2 when the curtain fabric of the vehicle curtain is expanded;

FIG. 6 is an operational side view in partial section of the vehicle curtain in FIG. 1; and

FIG. 7 is an operational side view in partial section of the unidirectional transmission device in FIG. 6 when the curtain fabric is retracted.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With reference to FIG. 1, a roll control device 6 in accordance with the present invention is mounted in a case 2 of a vehicle curtain. The vehicle curtain comprises a receiving housing 1, the case 2, a curtain rod 3, a curtain fabric 5 and a rolling device 4. The case 2 is mounted on one end of the receiving housing 1. The curtain rod 3 is rotatably mounted in the receiving housing 1. The curtain fabric 5 has an end connected with curtain rod 3, can be wrapped around the curtain rod 3 and can be expanded or retracted relative to the receiving housing 1. The rolling device 4 is connected with the curtain rod 3 at an end opposite to the case 2 and comprises a torsion spring 4A.

With reference to FIGS. 1 to 3, the roll control device 6 comprises a unidirectional transmission device 7 and a damping assembly 8.

The unidirectional transmission device 7 is mounted in the case 2 and comprises a gear base 10, multiple planet gears 20 and a transmission wheel 30. The gear base 10 comprises a connecting segment 11, a driving segment 12 and an axle 13. The driving segment 12 is formed on one side of the connecting segment 11. The axle 13 is formed on and protrudes from the driving segment 12 at a side opposite to the connecting segment 11. The connecting segment 11 has an engaging hole 14 formed in a side of the connecting segment 11 opposite to the driving segment 12 and engaging with an end of the curtain rod 3, such that the gear base 10 can be rotated with the curtain rod 3.

The driving segment 12 comprises multiple receiving recesses 15 formed in a periphery of the driving segment 12 and arranged around a center of the gear base 10 at even intervals. Multiple limiting segments 18 are defined respectively between the receiving recesses 15. Each receiving recess 15 is stepped and comprises a first holding segment 16 and a second holding segment 17. The second holding segment 17 has an inner diameter larger than that of the first holding segment 16, so the cross sectional area of the second holding segment 17 is larger than that of the first holding segment 16. The first holding segment 16 and the second holding segment 17 of each receiving recess 15 respectively

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have a curved inner surface **161,171**. In addition, each limiting segment **18** has a curved flange **181** formed on one end of the limiting segment **18** and being adjacent to the second holding segment **17** of a corresponding receiving recess **15**.

With reference to FIGS. **2** to **4**, the planet gears **20** are mounted on the gear base **10**, are arranged around the axle **13** and are respectively mounted in the receiving recesses **15**. Each planet gear **20** comprises a gear axle **21** and a toothed segment **22**. The toothed segment **22** is mounted in the second holding segment **17** of a corresponding receiving recess **15**, and one end of the gear axle **21** is mounted in the first holding recess **16** of the corresponding receiving recess **15**. The toothed segment **22** has a diameter larger than that of the gear axle **21** but is smaller than the inner diameter of the corresponding second holding segment **17**. The diameter of the gear axle **21** is smaller than the inner diameter of the corresponding first holding recess **16**. Accordingly, the planet gears **20** are rotatable relative to the gear base **10** and are moveable relative to the receiving recesses **15**.

The transmission wheel **30** is rotatably combined with the gear base **10**, encloses the planet gears **20** and comprises a wheel base **31** and a transmission gear **32**. The wheel base **31** has a toothed recess **33** defined in one side of the wheel base **31** and has a toothed inner surface. The toothed recess **33** has an opening in the side of the wheel base **31**. The transmission gear **32** is formed on the wheel base **31** at a side opposite to the toothed recess **33**. A through hole **34** is defined through a center of the transmission gear **32** and communicates with the toothed recess **33**. The planet gears **20** selectively engage the toothed inner surface of the toothed recess **33**. The axle **13** of the gear base **10** rotatably extends through the toothed recess **33** and the through hole **34** and protrudes out of the transmission wheel **30** to rotatably connect with the case **2**.

With reference to FIGS. **3** and **4**, the planet gears **20** are rotatably mounted in the receiving recesses **15**. The gear axle **22** of each planet gear **20** slidably abuts with the curved inner surface **161** of the corresponding first holding segment **16**. The toothed segment **21** of each planet gear **20** is kept from abut with the curved inner surface **171** of the corresponding second holding recess **17** to form a gap between the toothed segment **21** and the curved inner surface **171** of the corresponding second holding segment **17** so as to prevent the drag between toothed segment **21** and the curved inner surface **171**, such that noise can be avoided.

With reference to FIG. **1**, the damping assembly **8** is mounted in the case **2** and comprises a driven gear **40** and a damper **50**. The driven gear **40** is rotatably mounted in the case **2** and engages with the transmission gear **32** on the transmission wheel **30**. The damper **50** is mounted in the case **2** and is connected with the driven gear **40** to provide a damping effect and to the driven gear **40** and to slow down the rotating speed of the driven gear **40** and the transmission wheel **30**. The damping assembly **8** further comprises a central axle **60** rotatably connected with the case **2**, and the damper **50** is mounted around the central axle **60**. Preferably, the driven gear **40** has a diameter larger than that of the transmission gear **32** on the transmission wheel **30**, such that the rotating speed of the driven gear **40** is slower than that of the transmission gear **32**.

With reference to FIGS. **1** and **5**, when the curtain fabric **5** of the vehicle curtain is expanded from the receiving housing **1**, the curtain rod **3** is rotated with the expansion of the curtain fabric **5**. At this time, the gear base **10** is also rotated in a direction shown in FIG. **5** due to the engagement between the curtain rod **3** and the gear base **10**. Consequently, the gear axles **22** of the planet gears **20** are respectively moved along the curved inner surfaces **161** of the first holding segments **16**

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to positions where are away from the curved flanges **181**. Thus, the planet gears **20** are kept from being limited by the curved flanges **181** of the limiting segments **18**, is free to engage the toothed inner surface of the toothed recess **33** and can rotate freely relative to the receiving recesses **15**. Accordingly, the curtain fabric **5** can be expanded without drag and is hooked on a hook **5A** to hold the curtain fabric **5** in a complete expansion position.

With reference to FIGS. **6** and **7**, when the curtain fabric **5** is retracted into the receiving housing **1**, the curtain rod **3** will be rotated in reverse by the rolling device **4**. At this time, the gear base **10** is also rotated in the reverse direction as shown in FIG. **7**. Consequently, the gear axles **22** of the planet gears **20** are respectively moved along the curved inner surfaces **161** of the first holding segments **16** to positions where are adjacent to the curved flanges **181**. Thus, the planet gears **20** are limited by the curved flanges **181** of the limiting segments **18** and engage with toothed inner surface of the toothed recess **33** of the transmission wheel **30**, such that the transmission wheel **30** is rotated by the gear base **10** and planet gears **20**. Accordingly, driven gear **40** is rotated by the transmission gear **32** on the transmission wheel **30**, and the damper **50** can provide a damping effect to curtain rod **3** with the transmission of the driven gear **40**, the transmission wheel **30** and the gear base **10**. Therefore, no noise and excessive vibration would occur when retracting the curtain fabric **5**.

Even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and features of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only. Changes may be made in the details, especially in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

What is claimed is:

1. A roll control device for a vehicle curtain comprising:
 - a unidirectional transmission device comprising
 - a gear base having
 - a connecting segment;
 - a driving segment formed on a side of the connecting segment and having
 - multiple receiving recesses formed in a periphery of the driving segment and arranged around a center of the gear base at even intervals; and
 - multiple limiting segments defined respectively between the receiving recesses and each limiting segment having a curved flange formed on an end of the limiting segment and being adjacent to a corresponding one of the receiving recesses; and
 - an axle formed on and protruding from the driving segment at a side opposite to the connecting segment;
 - multiple planet gears mounted rotatably and slidably in the receiving recesses respectively and selectively limited by the curved flanges respectively to rotate with the gear base, and each planet gear having a toothed segment and a gear axle; and
 - a transmission wheel rotatably combined with the gear base, enclosing the planet gears and having
 - a wheel base having a toothed recess defined in a side of the wheel base and having a toothed inner surface selectively engaging the planet gears;
 - a transmission gear formed on the wheel base at a side opposite to the toothed recess; and

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- a through hole defined through a center of the transmission gear and communicating with the toothed recess, wherein the axle of the gear base extends rotatably through the toothed recess and the through hole; and
- a damping assembly connected with the unidirectional transmission device and comprising
- a driven gear engaging the transmission gear on the transmission wheel; and
- a damper connected with the driven gear.
2. The roll control device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each receiving recess is stepped and comprises a first holding segment and a second holding segment, wherein the second holding segment has an inner diameter larger than that of the first holding segment;
- the first holding segment and the second holding segment of each receiving recess respectively have a curved inner surface;
- each planet gear comprises
- a gear axle mounted in the first holding segment of a corresponding one of the receiving recesses and slidably abut with the curved inner surface of the first holding segment of the corresponding receiving recess; and
- a toothed segment mounted in the second holding segment of the corresponding receiving recess and having a gap defined between the toothed segment and the curved inner surface of the second holding segment of the corresponding receiving recess.

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3. The roll control device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the damping assembly further comprises a central axle; and the damper is mounted around the central axle.
4. The roll control device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the driven gear has a diameter larger than that of the transmission gear on the transmission wheel.
5. The roll control device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the gear base further has an engaging hole formed in a side of the connecting segment opposite to the driving segment.
6. The roll control device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the damping assembly further comprises a central axle; and the damper is mounted around the central axle.
7. The roll control device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the driven gear has a diameter larger than that of the transmission gear on the transmission wheel.
8. The roll control device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the gear base further has an engaging hole formed in a side of the connecting segment opposite to the driving segment.
9. The roll control device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the driven gear has a diameter larger than that of the transmission gear on the transmission wheel.
10. The roll control device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the gear base further has an engaging hole formed in a side of the connecting segment opposite to the driving segment.
11. The roll control device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gear base further has an engaging hole formed in a side of the connecting segment opposite to the driving segment.

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